

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-13 SSO-00

INRE-00 DPW-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 RSR-01 /138 W

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O R 191027Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4986

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

DIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

SECDEF

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 5047

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA, US, VN, XC

SUBJECT: THE LAO CEASEFIRE - 21ST WEEK

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REF: VIENTIANE 4946

I. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

RECENT LOW LEVEL OF COMBAT ACTIVITY IN LAOS CONTINUED DURING TWENTY-FIRST WEEK OF CEASEFIRE, WITH ONLY SEVEN INCIDENTS AND FIVE RLAF SORTIES REPORTED, ALL IN SOUTH LAOS. TWO MAJOR INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE 11-13 JULY WHEN AN ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION, SUPPORTED BY MORTAR/ROCKET FIRE, ATTACKED FRIENDLY POSITIONS SOUTHWEST OF MUONG PHALANE, FORCING FRIENDS TO WITHDRAW. RLAF FLEW FIVE COMBAT SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF FRIENDS. A THIRD MAJOR INCIDENT TOOK PLACE 7-12 JULY WHEN ENEMY MOVED TO ELIMINATE FRIENDLY PRESENCE IN THE AREA OF PHA HOM (LS-241) AND CANG SA NI (LS-245) IN FAR NORTHERN MR-III NEAR NORTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. PHA HOM WAS CAPTURED BY ENEMY JULY 8 AND CANG SA NI WAS ABANDONED BY FRIENDLY FORCES, JULY 13, AFTER COMING UNDER MORTAR ATTACK. THE ENEMY NOW CONTROLS APPROXIMATELY 75 PER CENT OF THE ESTIMATED 4,000 TRIBAL PEOPLE IN THE VICINITY.

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

DURING TWENTY-FIRST WEEK OF LAO CEASEFIRE, NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO LAO PARTIES REMAINED ON TRACK. LPF SENIOR NEGOTIATOR PHOUMI AND HIS RLG COUNTERPART PHENG CONTINUED TO MEET AND THERE WERE SIGNS OF PROGRESS. SOME OF THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES DIVIDING THE TWO SIDES HAVE BEEN NARROWED DOWN AND THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT NEW INSTRUCTIONS THE LPF NEGOTIATOR HAD RECEIVED FROM SAM ENUA MIGHT FACILITATE A COMPROMISE SOLUTION IF THE ROYAL ARMY AND THE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ELEMENTS RAISED NO NEW OBSTACLES. THE LATTER TWO ELEMENTS ARE RELUCTANT TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS RAPIDLY BECAUSE THEY PRESENTLY ENJOY THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS: AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE WITHOUT LPF PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. IT WILL TAKE ALL OF SOUVANNA'S AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE TO BRING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LPF TO FRUITION, EVEN WITH THE
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LPF IN A CONCILIATORY MOOD, AS LONG AS THE RIGHT REMAINS OPPOSED TO IMPLEMENTING THE FEBRUARY VIENTIANE AGREEMENT.
DEAN

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